

Characterization of a coherent optical RF channelizer based on a diffraction grating

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A coherent optical RF channelizer has been constructed and characterized. The optical channelizer is based on a free-space optical diffraction grating, and utilizes coherent optical heterodyne detection to translate all of the frequency channels to a common intermediate frequency (IF). The designed optical channelizer has a 1-GHz channel spacing, and a nominal 5-GHz IF and can offer an instantaneous bandwidth greater than 100 GHz. The channelizing receiver has been characterized for its frequency response, crosstalk, and spur-free dynamic range, and the results are in a good agreement with the theoretical values.

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